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There are other characteristics of his to which it is not within the limits of the present notice to make more than a passing reference. It is enough to say, in general terms, that those who knew him best esteemed him most. The affectionate regard in which he always continued to be held by the men once brought into close communion with him by the nature of their special studies was due full as much to the respect inspired by his moral qualities as by those purely intellectual. His sincerity, his disinterestedness, his unflinching devotion to duty, could not fail to impress profoundly all with whom he came into constant contact. Speaking for myself personally, I may be permitted to say, in conclusion, after the intimate associations of twenty-five years, that never have I known a man more unselfish in his dealings with others, more loyal to his friends, more genuine in profession, and more upright in every relation of life than he, who held unchallenged during the whole of his career the position of foremost of American philologists.

1895.

THOMAS R. LOUNSBURY.

FOREIGN HONORARY MEMBERS.

CHARLES EDOUARD BROWN-SÉQUARD.

CHARLES EDOUARD BROWN-SÉQUARD* was born at Port Louis, on the island of Mauritius, April 8, 1817, and died at Paris, April 2, 1894. His father was an American sea-captain, and his mother, Madame Séquard, was a native of Provence. Left without resources by her husband's death just before the birth of her child, she managed to support herself and him by her needle, and to give him a care and training which gained her his deep love and devotion, and doubtless fostered the affectionate and domestic traits of his disposition which characterized him throughout his life. The extraordinary industry and singleness of purpose which he afterwards showed must have had their root in fine inborn qualities of mind, but his early simple life, with its traditions of hard work and self-reliance, was a good school for virtues of this order.

As a young man, and while supporting himself as agent for a large

* For many interesting facts relating to his life and works, see an address by Eugene Dupuy, published in the Transactions of the Société de Biologie, 1894, which is my authority for most of the data here given.

colonial store, he is said to have tried his hand with local success at polite letters, and soon afterwards to have made his way with his mother to Paris, as an aspirant for literary fame, following in this respect also in the footsteps of his great predecessor in the Chair of Physiology, Claude Bernard.

But he was quickly disillusioned, and, gathering fresh courage, began to prepare himself for the practice of medicine. The next few years covered a period of extreme poverty, in spite of which he dared to devote himself to physiology, though there seemed to be no prospect of support or advancement in its pursuit, and then began that long course of tenacious, unflagging labor in scientific fields which was checked only by his death.

Even the wandering life he led — for he crossed the ocean innumerable times, and planned at different periods to make a home for himself in various cities of Europe and America — did not for a moment arrest his labors or his productiveness, or cause him even to change materially his hours or methods of work. He was in the habit, from the period of his student years throughout the rest of his life, of going to bed at eight o'clock in the evening and rising at two in the morning, in order to have time for uninterrupted work, and even when journeying by land or sea he continued to study and to write. His whole mental attitude was characterized by an eagerness and intensity which made a moment's conversation with him seem like a memorable event. It may be questioned whether his judgment might not have been calmer, and his sense of proportion more just, if the fire of his energy had burned less fiercely; but it is doubtless true that the brilliancy of his scientific imagination, which, next to his tireless industry, was his most characteristic trait, was kept at a glowing heat by this flame.

His first scientific communication of consequence was his graduation thesis, on the "Sensory Tracts in the Spinal Cord," presented in 1846, and the investigations which he made with regard to this matter, both at this time and subsequently, were among the most important of his scientific life. In 1848 he took part in founding the Société de Biologie, and up to the time of his death he remained one of its most active members. In 1852 he embarked in a sailing vessel for New York, and, having utilized the voyage in studying English, he at once began to teach experimental physiology in the medical schools of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, at the same time writing papers in the medical journals and eking out his small income by teaching French and by practising obstetrics. In 1854 he returned to Mauri-

tius, and during the epidemic of cholera which shortly followed he was put in charge of the hospital. In 1855 he was made Professor of Physiology at the University of Virginia, in Richmond, but his life there was not congenial. An ardent republican, and with the scenes of the *coup d'état* of 1852, in which he had himself borne arms, still fresh in his mind, the contact with Negro slavery impressed him very unpleasantly, and in 1856 he returned to Paris and established a laboratory with his friend Robin. His researches, and especially those relating to the spinal cord and to epilepsy, had by this time made him famous, and he was welcomed as a lecturer in the Universities of England, Scotland and Ireland, which he visited in the course of the next year. In 1858 he began the publication of his "*Journal de la Physiologie de l'Homme et des Animaux*." He next went to London, where he was made Physician to the National Hospital for Epileptics and Paralytics, and became busy with a large consulting practice; but in 1863 he again broke loose, and came to establish himself in Boston, the home of his first wife, whom he had married on his earlier visit. In 1864 he was made Professor of Physiology and Pathology of the Nervous System in the Harvard Medical School. The loss of his wife, in 1867, determined him to change his plans and return to Europe. In 1868 he founded the "*Archives de Physiologie*," in company with Charcot and Vulpian. By 1872 he had however again crossed the sea, intending to establish himself in New York, which was the home of the lady who became his second wife, and he at once began together with Dr. E. C. Seguin to edit the "*Archives of Scientific and Practical Medicine*," which had a brief but creditable existence. The early death of his second wife again broke up his home, and he returned to Europe once more. Within a few years he married for the third time, and had agreed to accept a professorship at Geneva, when the death of Claude Bernard, in 1873, brought him a call to the Chair of Experimental Medicine at the *Ecole de Médecine* (1878), and this position he held for the remaining sixteen years of his life. His wife, to whom he had been deeply attached, died in 1894, and he survived her only a few months. He worked to the last, and had taken an active share in the preparation of the issue of his journal, the "*Archives de Physiologie*," which appeared shortly after his death.

Brown-Séquard was the only person whose name appears successively in the three divisions of the American Academy. He was elected a Fellow May 28, 1867, an Associate Fellow May 27, 1873, and a Foreign Honorary Member February 9, 1881.

This is not the place for a critical estimate of Brown-Séquard's work, or an enumeration of his communications. The works by which he will be longest remembered are, perhaps, first, the investigations already referred to with regard to the sensory tracts in the spinal cord ; secondly, his insistence on the complex nature of the cerebral functions, and the interaction of one part on another, leading to the phenomena of inhibition and reinforcement ; thirdly, his studies on experimental epilepsy ; fourthly, his observation that many of the organs of the body, such as the suprarenal capsules and other glands, both ductless and secretive, exercise an important influence on the nutrition of the body through the substances which they pour into the blood. These are all still living problems, and the work which he did on the last of them, though it has led to much adverse criticism, partly just, partly unjust, has borne and will bear practical fruit.

It is true that in collecting materials for the support of the conclusions which he reached he sometimes showed a lack of critical judgment which carried him too far, and impaired the weight of his authority in the eyes of many persons who were not in a position to know the real merit of his work, and to select the grain from the chaff. It is likewise true, however, that his researches gave birth to a splendid array of observations and generalizations, for which his name will be gratefully remembered by every sincere student of physiology.

His friend and co-worker Gley says of him, "Brown-Séquard was one of the greatest discoverers of facts that the world has ever seen."

1895.

JAMES JACKSON PUTNAM.

HERMANN LUDWIG FERDINAND VON HELMHOLTZ.

HERMANN LUDWIG FERDINAND VON HELMHOLTZ, one of the most illustrious of European *savants* and one of the most distinguished of the Foreign Honorary Members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, was born at Potsdam, Prussia, on August 31, 1821.

Admitted at the age of seventeen to the Royal Military School at Berlin, he became Assistant Surgeon at La Charité Hospital, and later, as full Military Surgeon, was stationed at Potsdam. But after four years of service he relinquished the practice of medicine to enter upon congenial pursuits in extended and accurate mathematical and physiological researches, and in untiring investigations of various intricate questions in physics and optics.

One of the earliest of his published scientific papers, "On the Con-